

## Phoenixville—1962

VW = “Willing Willie” (Name of Our Car)

**August 6, 1962**

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the bond of Love through the name of our Master!

We would like to share with you some of the blessed experiences that our Father permitted us to have while colporteur in Phoenixville. Some of the experiences were mountain high, while others were valley low. But through them all, we know that the Lord has been with us, fashioning us into the image of His dear Son.

***June 9, Saturday***

Our trip began with prayer at 4:00 a.m. We stopped to see Brother Russell’s grave and the Bethel Home in Pittsburgh. That evening we stayed overnight with the Baracos family. We really appreciated the fellowship and the encouragement we received from them.

***June 10, Sunday***

We started from Pittsburgh at 7:00 a.m. and arrived in Pottstown at approximately 1:00 p.m. We got acquainted with the Geisingers, and it was decided that we stay in Pottstown every evening, with the exception of Tuesday and Wednesday, when we’d remain in Phoenixville overnight with Sr. Hudak.

***June 11, Monday***

We rested and discussed our plans as to how we’d go about the witnessing effort. We decided to follow-up a bit at first, and then begin colporteur.

***June 12, Tuesday***

Sr. Mary meets with a colored woman and they study the First Volume. One of our privileges was to accompany Sr. Mary to the study every Tuesday morning. We were especially impressed by the constant cheerfulness of Mrs. Spears, amidst all the trials that surround her life. (The study lasts approximately 1 ½ hours.) In the afternoon we follow-upped with no results. We also investigated whether it was necessary for us to obtain a permit to colporteur Phoenixville. The police chief finally said that considering “Freedom of Religion,” contained in the constitution of PA, no permit was necessary. We left a Volume. That evening we attended the Trenton meeting. (We were very thankful for the car, because it permitted us to attend the classes of various surrounding brethren, and through the visits we received many blessings, especially in becoming acquainted with the brethren.)

### ***June 13, Wednesday***

(I've already made a mistake: We applied for the permit Wed. morning, not Tuesday aft. Sorry.) We also follow-upped in the morning, and again, no results (visible), so we decided to discontinue follow-upping and to begin colporteuring. In the afternoon we visited Alverta Morrissey, Bro. and Sr. Strickland's daughter. [She is consecrated, but married a Catholic (I believe), and does not attend meetings. Her sister, Harriet, inquired whether we could visit with her, and perhaps could have a little study with her.] After getting acquainted, we began a study of the Chart chapter in the First Volume. In the evening we returned to Phoenixville and had our study on the Tabernacle. A question was raised re the difference and sequence (if any) between anointing, begetting, sealing and quickening.

### ***June 14, Thursday***

We began colporteuring. We met a minister, or rather we contacted a minister, and had a lengthy discussion touring the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, with frequent stops in Psalms, Matthew, Peter, James, etc., from Creation to Revelation's beast. The bulk of the discussion was on "Believe and be Saved."—NO sacrifice necessary on our part, only belief. But we also got into the topic of Trinity. Some of his proofs (?) were as follows: as with book dimensions, length, width and depth, if one was made "0" there would be no book; so with Trinity. Also, JHVH=I AM of the Old Testament. In the New Testament, Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I Am." (Jesus = God???) We left a Volume.

In the afternoon, we (Alys) colporteured on a JW. After a while, Merrily entered to see if Alys was "above water." The situation was difficult. She knew about Br. Russell's works and she would even use them in reference, or so she said. But it was too bad we didn't progress. She brought out 1 Cor. 1:12, showing that it is right for all the JW's all over the world to study the same thing at the same time. She, as did the minister, had a very nice spirit—but felt sorry for us. Her husband was the company servant in Phoenixville. (We found out later that they warned their whole congregation of our work.) She gave us a challenge, that if we really believed that we were right, we should keep returning and convince her. Oh! Before we left the minister, he prayed for us that we would be guided aright. During his prayer, we silently prayed for him.

### ***June 15, Friday***

We colporteured and placed 3 Volumes. One was to a Baptist woman who was very open minded. She didn't believe in the Trinity, etc., and liked to study and read the Bible, of which she had a good knowledge.

### ***June 16, Saturday***

We went to the York Convention. ½ movies, ½ talks. We met Sr. Armistead (a relative of Bro Jensen of Chicago). We appreciated her sweet and devoted spirit, seeking always to serve and please Him. We passed through an Amish Village.

### ***June 17, Sunday***

We went to Paterson. Visited with Alpha. We came home early to Phoenixville in hopes of seeing the Baptist woman attending our meetings. She didn't come.

***June 18, Monday***

Had the car checked in Norristown. We spent the day in a RR station, studying, writing letters, and batting flies.

***June 19, Tuesday***

We studied in the morning with Mrs. Spears. In the afternoon we typed letters to invite the public to a Public talk on the “Son of Man” in July. In the evening we went to Trenton. There we discussed Rom. 12:1-2, re the transformation referred to character, or nature.

***June 20, Wednesday***

Stayed home, studied, wrote, and typed letters of invitation. In the evening: Phoenixville meeting—still on the sealing vs. anointing, and anointing vs. begetting.

***June 21, Thursday***

Tracted an area in Phoenixville before colporteur. It was very tiring, but with Marsha’s help it went much quicker. In the evening we wrote letters, and visited “Ringing Rocks” park.

***June 22, Friday***

One woman yelled at Merr and escorted her off her porch, amidst loud outbursts of “What do you want me to do, support every church?” etc., etc. That morning, we placed 3 Volumes. In the afternoon, we went to Alverta’s again, and this time Tony Jo Oliver, a daughter of Truth Brethren, was there. We had a discussion re differences of the Dawn, PBI, and Cicero. We also studied a bit farther in the First Volume.

***June 23, Saturday***

Went to Valley Forge. In the evening, we visited Br. Bill’s parents, who are also in the truth. They had a good understanding of the Truth and encouraged us in the work.

***June 24, Sunday***

We went to Philadelphia. They had a question meeting and the question re sealing, begetting, quickening, and anointing was still batted around.

***June 25, Monday***

We went colporteur and placed 9 Volumes. In the evening we went over a JW book to get an idea of their current doctrines and beliefs.

***June 26, Tuesday***

In the early morning, we washed clothes, and then went to the study at Mrs. Spears. In the afternoon we colporteurs and placed 3 Volumes. In the evening we went to Trenton.

***June 27, Wednesday***

We colportoured and placed 6 Volumes. In the process we met (encountered) the wife of a Pentecostal minister. She was quite concerned for our lives—and tearfully prayed that we would “see” Hell by the end of the day. She was quite emotional, and really believed that we would be enlightened.

***June 28, Thursday***

Merr was sick. Al colporteurd and placed one Volume with a college “skeptic,” who was very combative.

***June 29, Friday***

We colporteurd all day. Marsha was with us. She assisted us quite a bit since her school term ended, by carrying our Volumes and tracts and ringing the door bells. We placed 3 Volumes. In the evening Ruth and George Wilmott came, and George gave a talk at Sr. Hudak’s. Some of the brethren came from the Pottstown class. The two of us stayed overnight at Sr. Hudak’s.

***June 30, Saturday***

New Brunswick Convention

***July 1, Sunday***

New Brunswick Convention

***July 2, Monday***

We consummated a deal for 6 bus cards on busses between Phoenix and Pottstown with Mr. Harris. Cost for all for 15 months was \$120.00 advertising 1<sup>st</sup> Vol.

Wesol car visited Pottstown for about an hour on their way wending back to Chicago. Ron Proskan stayed with us till evening when Carl picked him up. Ron placed one set of Volumes in the Library of Pottstown.

***July 3, Tuesday***

We colporteurd all day and placed 3 Volumes. We didn’t visit Mrs. Spears that day. In the evening we washed clothes.

***July 4, Wednesday***

We visited with Burns and Rawsons at the ocean. We returned in time for the evening study in Phoenixville. Trzynas, Vi Jurek, Mark Kandel, Kollimans, and Sr. Miller (Pottstown) were at the meeting.

***July 5, Thursday***

In the morning Merr colporteurd alone with Marsha, while Al drove Vi and Florence follow-upping. Vi and Florence placed 1 set of Volumes in the hospital, and one in the library in Phoenixville. In the afternoon we colporteurd and placed 2 Volumes. In the evening, Merr left with the Koterbas for Chicago for the funeral of her grandmother.

***July 6, Friday***

Brethren from Chicago left. Al placed 3 Volumes, while colporteurd with Marsha.

***July 7, Saturday***

Geisingers and Al visited with some of the Wilmington brethren at a picnic.

***July 8, Sunday***

Visited Trenton—the first meeting they had on a Sunday; also first time in a new hall. Lunch was spent with various brethren from the class there. In the evening we returned home for the meeting in Phoenixville.

***July 9, Monday***

Placed 1 Volume while colporteur.

***July 10, Tuesday***

Attended study with Mrs. Spears. Studied in the afternoon. Al went to the study in Trenton.

***July 11, Wednesday***

Colporteur, placing 2 Volumes. Attended the meeting in Phoenixville.

***July 12, Thursday***

Al colporteur; Mary and Sr. Hudak follow-upped. Al stopped colporteur that day; didn't feel well and the temperature was quite high, like hot.

***July 13, Friday***

In the morning a set of Volumes was loaned to the Baptist woman. The rest of the day was spent with Sr. Koterba and Sr. Hudak—then Al took Sr. Koterba to her home, and Alys continued on to Rawsons and stayed there overnight.

***July 14, Saturday***

Seminar at Rawsons on the Smiting of the Image, extending all day. In the evening Al left for Pottstown.

***July 15, Sunday***

Geisingers and Al visited the Washington class and spent the afternoon with Sr. Helen Hen, Bro. W. T. Baker, and Sr. Everett. [They had an upsetting discussion on various views re the seven stages of the church, the seventh messenger, the Great Company's and the Little Flock's place in the time of trouble and the day of vengeance. These in the majority are views of one sister.] Returned to Phoenixville for the meeting and Merr was there—just returned from Chicago.

***July 16, Monday***

Tried to contact newspaperman re an ad for the First Volume. Made an appointment for the following day. In the afternoon we had the car serviced, so we returned and stuffed and stamped envelopes for the public talk and a newsletter that is sent to the public. (The newsletter is a connection of the Truth with a bit of current news—showing how the plan of God is really coming to pass.)

***July 17, Tuesday***

Visited Mrs. Spears in the morning. In the afternoon we contacted the newspaperman—total cost of the First Volume ad = \$72.80. We then colporteur, but didn't place any Volumes. In the evening we took Sr. Wasilewski and Sr. Koterba (who were visiting Sr. Hudak) to the Trenton meeting, from where they went to the Burns' home.

### ***July 18, Wednesday***

We colporteurd in the morning and placed one Volume. It rained in the afternoon, so we remained home and studied or wrote letters. In the evening we had the meeting in Phoenixville.

### ***July 19, Thursday***

We colporteurd and placed 6 Volumes.

### ***July 20, Friday***

We colporteurd in the morning and met a well-versed fundamentalist minister who gave us a battle “royal” regarding the Trinity, and that belief in it was necessary for salvation. Listed below are some of the points he presented:

1. Those “born” of the spirit cannot fall. (Born = what we say is begotten.) Heb. 6 = Jews.
2. Jesus’ sacrifice saved and saves us from ALL sins, past, present, and future—therefore no prayers are necessary for the forgiveness of sins. 1 Jn. 1:9 refers to IF we confess our sins, it is not a command. There is no (?) command to pray in the New Testament.
3. Paul’s experience en route to Damascus proves that God = Jesus because Paul (Saul) cried to the Lord (which of course is Jhvh, since Saul was a Jew), and Jesus answered, etc., etc.

In the afternoon we made a concentrated effort to review scriptures on the morning discussion, in order to better prepare ourselves for another “attack” by Babylon.

Later on we left for the Koterba’s home and stopped en route at the Burns’ home, where we learned that Sr. Bednarz was ill and Sue had come to be with her. Sr. Wasilewski was at the Burns’ home so we visited with her awhile and tried to brighten her day. We left there and stopped at the Dawn, where we received a very cordial welcome and helpful hints regarding our morning’s discussion. We especially went to see Maxine Tiemeier and Mary Presnell. We finally landed at Koterba’s and remained overnight.

### ***July 21, Saturday***

After a good night’s sleep, we went to Dinwoodies at the shore. We tracted in the morning, swam in the afternoon, and in the evening had a study re the Times of Restitution. [There was quite a difference of opinion through the study.] The evening was spent at the Burns’ and we remained there overnight.

### ***July 22, Sunday***

We visited the Trenton meeting in the morning and the New Brunswick meeting in the afternoon, returning for the Phoenixville meeting in the evening.

### ***July 23, Monday***

Went colporteurd and placed 3 Volumes. In the evening we all fixed a mimeo for the Geisingers’ use in the Lord’s service, by the use of clothes hangers and erasers. (Work’s too!!) We also studied and wrote letters.

***July 24, Tuesday***

We visited Mrs. Spears in the morning, and while colporteur in the afternoon we placed 2 Volumes. In the evening we attended our last Trenton meeting.

***July 25, Wednesday***

We colporteur a poor and rough section of town, on the North side, and placed one Volume.

***July 26, Thursday***

We colporteur and placed one Volume with a woman who said she'd attend the meetings if we'd pick her up—never heard from her yet. We also witnessed a disaster in this poor neighborhood—a boy drowned in the river located at the end of the block. In this experience we saw the spirit of love so prevalent in the cooperation of “blacks and whites,” young and old, as they sought the body in the river—a foretaste of the oneness of the Millennium.

Added experience we missed. One home to which we went was occupied by a woman who smelt like a bean factory. This was our closest call to persecution. After a brief discussion, she “gently” shoved us across the porch and down the stairs, muttering clearly, “Don't be discouraged, the Lord is with you.” And off we went. We meet all kinds.

In the evening we went to Sr. Irene Chudzick's sister's home for supper and the evening. We had a pleasant time, but they aren't interested in Truth. (Irene Chudzick is a Sister from Aurora who comes occasionally to our fourth Sunday Conventions.)

***July 27, Friday***

We stayed home and rested, washed and ironed our clothes, and studied.

***July 28, Saturday***

We wrote letters, studies, went to Sr. Hudak's and awaited the arrival of Br. Tony Tsimonis and Sr. Anna Tsimonis. In the evening, Br. Tony spoke.

***July 29, Sunday***

Br. Tony gave the public talk in the afternoon, to which had been invited all the colporteur names and those who had shown interest in the Truth in the past four years. Only one public came and only for the last ten minutes, leaving promptly at the close of the prayer.

***July 30, Monday***

We colporteur the end of the poor area, placing 3 Volumes. Merr attended the Pottstown class to hear Br. Price. Al studied. After the meeting, Barrall's, Capuzzi's and Wallace Elias dropped in for a short visit. We really appreciated their visit.

***July 31, Tuesday***

We visited Mrs. Spears in the morning. In the afternoon we colporteur. While colporteur near a cemetery, we saw a funeral procession: the closing scenes of the disaster we had witnessed a few days before—the death of the little thirteen year old boy. In the last area of the North end of town, one back street (and believe us, it was a back street) contained six homes (?) in which we wouldn't permit animals to rest. Flies swarmed the area, the stench reminded us of the fire outside the camp of the Tabernacle. Yet from these surroundings some of the most cheerful people come!

**Hark! IT IS F-I-N-I-S-H-E-D**, by the Lord's grace and strength, for without Him, we never would have been able to daily continue.

In the evening we went to Trenton, to find that the meeting was cancelled due to the death of Sr. Bednarz. We and Sr. Ruth Wolvin drove to the Burns' and Rawson's homes and dropped off various items. We really appreciated the fellowship in the car with Sr. Ruth—and through it we learned of how the Lord was dealing with one of His own.

***August 1, Wednesday***

We stayed home and cleaned the car. Merr read to the three little boys next door about Samson. They began acting the part, and it eventually ended in tears. In the evening we attended the meeting in Phoenixville.

***August 2, Thursday***

In the afternoon we placed one set of the Volumes in a college; after speaking to the President, and two sets in prospect in an Old Peoples' Home where they would be accessible to four hundred people.

***August 3, Friday***

We studied most of the day. Merr studied part time in the Library. We all went to the Barrall's for supper. We stayed overnight with Marsha.

***August 4, Saturday***

We went swimming with Barbara and Sr. Alice in the ocean at Ocean City.

***August 5, Sunday***

Attended the Wilmington Class meeting and in the afternoon we toured the beautiful Longwood Gardens.

For the remaining time spent in the Pottstown-Phoenixville area, we plan to try and place four more sets of Volumes, with time in between for study of the topics we were given for our Seattle trip, plus packing and preparing for our departure to Bloomington on Friday, and miscellaneous odds and ends.

***Now for the statistics:***

We placed in total, through colporteur, the ad, tract, 77 First Volumes, 65 via colporteur, 12 via the ad. We included the ones requested from the tracts as if colporteur. Also, to date, including today, five sets of Volumes were placed in various institutions and three were placed in prospect, plus one to the Valley Forge Army Hospital and 5 to the Johnson home.

We colporteur 22 ½ days in all—which comes to 112.5 hours, if counting 5 hours to a colporteur day. This gives an average of an approximate 2 books placed in an hour.



## A Typical Full Colporteur Day

- 8:30 We awaken. (We don't like the shrill sound of the alarm clock.)
- 9:00 We leave for Phoenixville (even if we are half asleep).
- 9:30 Colportering begins. It is the easiest in the morning, for you have renewed energy. Usually after we place a Volume, we say, "I wonder if he or she will read it."
- 11:30 Usually stop colportering, unless we're talking to a minister. We go to Sr. Hudak's for lunch (she surely fills us with a good meal), and study or write till we resume our activity.
- 1:30 We resume colportering, frequently with tired feet and amidst heat.
- 3:00 In the heat of the day, we'd stop and rest about 15 minutes, munching an ice cream cone or candy bar, or the like.
- 4:30 Would end our day, weary in body, but rejoicing in spirit. We then would return to Pottstown, unless we stayed overnight with Sr. Hudak in Phoenixville.
- 1:00 Fell into bed with our "Songs in the Night."

*"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

*"Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and night; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.*

*"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name."*

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

**SO SEND I YOU ...**

In Him,